

Message Text

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43

ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 OIC-02 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ACDA-10

AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07

FEAE-00 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-05 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAL-01 /170 W

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O 131430Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7530

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS YAOUNDE 0148

BONN AND OSLO FOR LOS TEAM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: COMMITTEE I INTERSESSIONAL MEETING

REF: YAOUNDE 139

ENGO HAS GIVEN US COPY OF MIMEOGRAPHED LETTER OF INVITATION WHICH HE SENT DEC 22 OR 23 TO CAMEROON MISSION TO UN FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION TO INVITEES TO PLANNED INTERSESSIONAL MEETING (REFTEL). HE FEELS THIS TEXT MAY BE OF USE TO UN SECRETARIAT IN ISSUING INVITATIONS ON HIS BEHALF IF ORIGINALS DID NOT ARRIVE. HE HAS AUTHORIZED US TO PASS TEXT TO USUN FOR INFORMAL TRANSMITTAL TO UN SECRETARIAT; LATTER MAY USE IT
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AT OWN DISCRETION. TEXT FOLLOWS.

QTE.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
YAOUNDE, DECEMBER 22, 1975
NO TA/QW/75/DIPL 163

I VISITED NEW YORK DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1975 AND HAD OCCASION TO HOLD INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDING THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AS WELL AS THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL. THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO INFORM MYSELF ON THE POSSIBILITIES FOR INFORMAL INTER-SESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE SINGLE NEGOTIATION TEXT PART I, DEALING WITH THE MANDATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE AT THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA.

AS A RESULT OF THESE CONSULTATIONS, I ARRANGED, WITH THE KIND COOPERATION OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL, FOR AN INFORMAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK (UN HEADQUARTERS) DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, TO ENABLE A PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT. SUCH A MEETING WAS HELD BETWEEN THE 18TH AND 28TH OF NOVEMBER, 1975. IT ELECTED AN AD HOC CHAIRMAN, PROFESSOR E LAUTERPACHT Q.C. OF AUSTRALIA.

AMONG THE REQUESTS I ADDRESSED TO THE NOVEMBER MEETING WAS THE OPINION OF PARTICIPANTS ON WHAT NEXT TO DO, ESPECIALLY TO ENHANCE THE WORK OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE DURING THE NEXT SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE IN THE SPRING. PROF LAUTERPACHT HAS REPORTED, AND SUBSEQUENT LETTERS FROM A NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS HAVE CONFIRMED, THAT THERE IS GENERAL FEELING THAT IT WOULD BE IMPERATIVE TO HOLD A FURTHER INFORMAL MEETING BEFORE THE SPRING SESSION, AND THAT IT SHOULD BE PRESIDED OVER PERSONALLY BY ME. IT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE PARTICIPANTS BE LIMITED IN NUMBER BUT REPRESENTATIVE OF MAJOR INTERESTS. ONE SUCH GROUP HAD WORKED EFFECTIVELY DURING THE NOVEMBER MEETING, BUT APPEARED NOT TO HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENTLY REPRESENTATIVE.

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THE REPORTS ON THE NOVEMBER MEETING HAVE GIVEN ME MUCH SATISFACTION AND ENCOURAGE ME TO PURSUE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PARTICIPANTS. MINDFUL OF THE DECISION OF THE GROUP OF 77 TO DISCUSS AT SOME LEVEL THE MANDATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE DURING THE SECOND HALF OF JANUARY 1976, I WISH TO SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD AN INFORMAL MEETING IN NEW YORK COMMENCING FEBRUARY 2ND AND LASTING ABOUT ONE WEEK.

I BELIEVE THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL SAVE THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES EXTRA TRAVELLING EXPENSES WHICH THEY WOULD INCUR SHOULD THIS MEETING BE SCHEDULED FOR A DATE REMOTE FROM THAT OF THE GROUP OF 77. FOLLOWING IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEIR DETAILED REVIEW OF THE SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT, I THINK ALSO THAT THEY WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO DISCUSS IN BETTER DETAIL OF THE MAJOR ISSUES POSED BY THE TEXT, AND EVENTUALLY TO MAKE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MEETING OF THE GROUP OF 77 AS A WHOLE IN EARLY MARCH, 1976.

I WISH TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO YOUR GOVERNMENT TO SEND THE REPRESENTATIVES WHO WILL ATTEND THE NEGOTIATING FOURTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE IN THE SPRING, TO ATTEND THE FEBRUARY MEETING. I CONSIDER THAT MEETING TO BE OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE AND HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO BEGIN AN EXERCISE IN THE QUEST FOR NEW SOLUTIONS TO THE MAJOR PROBLEM AREAS IN THE MANDATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE. THE PRELIMINARY REACTIONS TO THE TEXT I HAVE SO FAR RECEIVED ARE FAR FROM DISCOURAGING. IN FACT, THEY REASSURE ME THAT THESE PROBLEM AREAS, NOW PRESENTED IN CONCRETE FORM, ARE FULLY RIPE FOR FRUITFUL NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS MY INTENTION TO PRESS FOR THE SUCCESS OF THESE PERSONALLY, COUNTING ON THE USUAL CO-OPERATION OF ALL DELEGATIONS AND THE UN SECRETARIAT.

PLEASE COMMUNICATE YOUR GOVERNMENT'S PLEASURE DIRECTLY TO ME, OR THROUGH THE DISTINGUISHED SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN NEW YORK.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY BEST WISHES FOR 1976 AND THE ASSURANCES OF MY PROFOUND ESTEEM.

PAUL BAMELA ENGO
MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY

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CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE. UNQTE
SPIRO

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